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32. The process of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:3.

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33. The process of claim 27, wherein recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide is chimeric.

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34. A process for screening for an antagonist or agonist of an opioid receptor comprising:

- (a) providing a recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide comprising the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4;
- (b) contacting the substance with the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide; and
- (c) detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide.

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35. The process of claim 34, wherein detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide involves measuring (i) binding ability; (ii) the ability of the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide to bind the candidate substance; (iii) ability of candidate to activate ion channels in a cell membrane; or (iv) modulation of ion channels in the cell membrane.

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36. The process of claim 34, wherein the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide is chimeric.--

REMARKS

Herein, claims 1-17 are cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 18-37 are added. A copy of the pending claims is provided as Appendix A. Support for the new claims can be found in the Specification at least at pages 10, lines 11-21; page 15, lines 5-10; page 28, line 6-page 29, line 9; page 56, line 20 to page 67, line 16; page 73, lines 17-19. Applicant contends that no new matter has been added.

The filing fee has been calculated after amendment of the claims by the preliminary amendment. Should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required, the

Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Fulbright & Jaworski
Deposit Account No. 50-1212/10020907/GNS.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina N. Shishima
Reg. No. 45,104
Attorney for Applicant

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 474-5201
(512) 536-3081 (facsimile)

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APPENDIX A
PENDING CLAIMS

--18. A process for screening a candidate substance for its ability to bind to an opioid receptor comprising:

- (a) providing a recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising 25 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3;
- (b) contacting the substance with the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide; and
- (c) detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide.

19. The process of claim 18, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 40 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

20. The process of claim 19, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 55 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

21. The process of claim 20, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 70 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

22. The process of claim 21, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

23. The process of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

24. The process of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:3.

25. The process of claim 20, wherein detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide involves measuring (i) binding ability; (ii) the ability of the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide to bind the candidate

substance; (iii) ability of candidate to activate ion channels in a cell membrane; or (iv) modulation of ion channels in the cell membrane.

26. The process of claim 20, wherein recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide is chimeric.
27. A process for screening a candidate substance for its ability to bind to an opioid receptor comprising:
 - (a) expressing a recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising 25 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3;
 - (b) contacting the candidate substance with the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide; and
 - (c) detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide.
28. The process of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 40 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.
29. The process of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 55 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.
30. The process of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 70 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.
31. The process of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.
32. The process of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:3.
33. The process of claim 27, wherein recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide is chimeric.

34. A process for screening for an antagonist or agonist of an opioid receptor comprising:

- (a) providing a recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide comprising the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4;
- (b) contacting the substance with the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide; and
- (c) detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide.

35. The process of claim 34, wherein detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide involves measuring (i) binding ability; (ii) the ability of the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide to bind the candidate substance; (iii) ability of candidate to activate ion channels in a cell membrane; or (iv) modulation of ion channels in the cell membrane.

36. The process of claim 34, wherein the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide is chimeric.--